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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/824,350	04/15/2004	Nam Seon Cho	0465-1165PUS1	6334
2292 7590 10/04/2007 BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			EXAMINER ING, MATTHEW W	
			ART UNIT 3637	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 10/04/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/824,350

Applicant(s)

CHO, NAM SEON

Examiner

Matthew W. Ing

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,6-12,15 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,6-12,15 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Whereas the previous Office Action, mailed 18 September 2007, was rendered inapplicable to the instant application owing to a clerical error; and whereas applicant notified the Office of said inconsistency immediately upon receipt of said Office Action; applicant is hereby provided with a complete, correct Office Action responsive to applicant's amendment dated 31 August 2007. The previous Office Action, mailed 18 September 2007, has been vacated; and the time for response to this Office Action has been restarted. Any inconvenience is regretted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

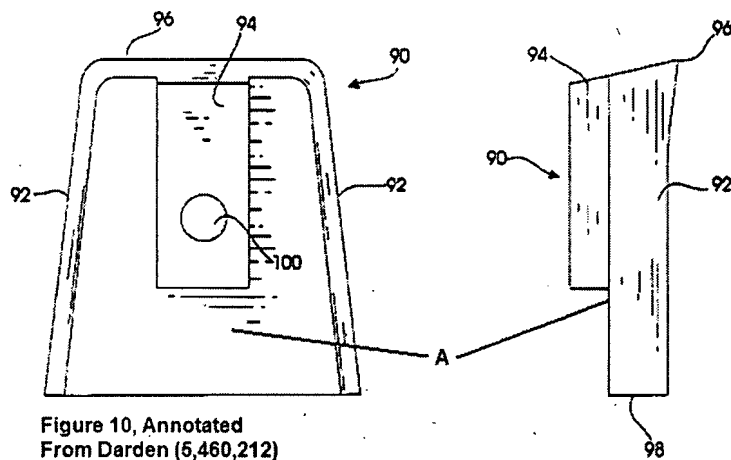
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-12, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art disclosed by the applicant in Figures 1-3 of his application, in view of Darden (5,460,212) and Lange (DE 3,606,805).

4. The prior art of Figures 1-3 teaches the structure substantially as claimed above, including a refrigerator (1); a sliding door (3) opening and closing said refrigerator, and configured to be slid open and closed; a handle (4) located on top edge surface the door, said handle being located on a front side of the refrigerator; and a plurality of handle holders (5) each having an end fixed to the door and another end attached to the handle; said handle holders being located on each side of the handle, and being fixed to the door by at least two screws (aka "a securing mechanism") penetrating the handle holder.

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5. The only difference between the admitted prior art of Figures 1-3 is that and the structure claimed by the applicant is that the admitted prior art fails to teach a groove, being formed on the door, for inserting the supporting member, wherein a depth of the groove is the same as a thickness of the supporting member; and a supporting member provided on each of the handle holders and preventing damage from occurring on the handle holder; said supporting member being protruded downwards on a lower surface of the handle holder; said supporting member being located on a contacting surface between the handle holder and the door; said supporting member having a width smaller than that of the handle holder; said supporting member being integrated with the handle holder; said supporting member being provided at a surrounding region of a hole through which the screws are penetrated; said supporting member being provided on a lower surface of a surrounding region of a hole through which a screw closer to the handle is penetrated.



6. Lange, however, teaches a groove (4), being formed on a door (2) between the surface of said door and an attachable structure (10); said groove being used for inserting a supporting member (5). See Figure 1. Additionally, Darden teaches the shaping of a groove (84) to accommodate a supporting member (94), such that the depth of the groove is the same as a

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thickness of the supporting member (see Figures 1, 3, 9, and 10). Darden also teaches the inclusion of a supporting member (94) on an attachable structure (92) to be attached via screw (104) to a larger structure (44), wherein the supporting member is protruded downwards on a lower surface (Item A – see Figure 10 Annotated, above) of the attachable structure (92); said supporting member being located on a contacting surface (Item A – see Figure 10 Annotated, above; see also Figures 1 & 3 of Darden) between the attachable structure (92) and the larger structure (44); said supporting member having a width smaller than that of the handle holder (see Figures 1 & 3); said supporting member being integrated with the handle holder (see Figures 9 and 10); said supporting member being provided at a surrounding region of a hole through which the screws are penetrated (see Figures 3 & 9); said supporting member being provided on a lower surface of a surrounding region of a hole through which a screw closer to the handle is penetrated (see Figures 3 & 9).

7. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the groove of Lange, and the supporting member and groove shape of Darden, into the handle holder and refrigerator door of the admitted prior art in order to provide a more secure connection between the handle-holder and door, thereby providing the structure substantially as claimed.

8. Regarding claims 1 and 16, examiner points out that, whereas the supporting member (94) of Darden is located closer to the front of both the attachable structure (92) and the larger structure (44) than the rear thereof (see Figures 3 & 10); and whereas said supporting member is only located around one screw (104); it can therefore be concluded that the combination of the teachings of Lange and Darden with those of the admitted prior art would produce a structure wherein the supporting member on each handle holder was located around the screw that was

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closer to the front of both the handle holder and refrigerator; and (therefore) wherein "the supporting member is disposed between the handle and a securing mechanism". Additionally, the examiner points out that whereas increasing the thickness of a member usually acts to increase the ability of said member to resist deformation when forces are exerted upon said member in the direction in which said member's thickness was increased, it can therefore be concluded that inclusion of the supporting member of Darden, upon handle holder of the admitted prior art, would obviously be capable of "absorb[ing] a force applied to the handle in a second direction opposite to the first direction and reinforce[ing] a strength of the handle holder when the sliding door is slid open and closed" .

9. Regarding claims 5 and 19, whereas Darden teaches a supporting member (94) that is integrally formed with, and of a single unitary piece with, the attachable structure (92) from which it depends, it can therefore be concluded that the combination of the teachings of Lange and Darden with those of the admitted prior art would obviously produce a structure wherein the supporting member and handle holder are integrally formed as a single piece. Additionally, the examiner points out that forming in one piece an article which has formerly been formed in two pieces has been held to involve only routine skill in the art.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed 31 August 2007 have been fully considered but they are not fully persuasive.

11. In response to applicant's apparent argument that Darden (5,460,212) is nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was

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concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. In this case, Darden is reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned. The attachable structure (92) of Darden can be analogized to the handle holder of the admitted prior art, in that both are smaller structures being fixed via screws to larger structures; and that, in this light, Darden can be seen as merely teaching the inclusion of a supporting member on any generic attachable structure. The examiner also points out that, although the larger structure (44) of Darden cannot be easily analogized to any type of door, Lange, as mentioned above, teaches the inclusion of a groove upon a generic door for the purposes of accommodating a supporting member. The examiner also points out that the inclusion of the supporting member taught by Darden on the underside of handle holder of the admitted prior art would obviously have the beneficial side-effect effect of providing structural reinforcement to said handle-holder; and would obviously serve to lessen the probability of failure due to fatigue. The examiner further points out that it is well known in the art that thickening a structure increases its structural rigidity. Hence, the examiner concludes that the teachings of Darden and Lange *are* reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned; and that as such, applicant's arguments to the contrary are not persuasive.

12. In response to applicant's argument regarding the Lange reference, the examiner points out that Lange is viewed not as teaching an integral supporting piece, but rather the inclusion, in a door, of a recess for accommodating such an integral supporting piece.

13. In response to applicant's argument that Darden teaches away from integrally-forming a supporting piece with a handle holder, the examiner points out that the supporting piece (94) of Darden is obviously integrally formed with, and of a single piece with, the attachable structure

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(92) from which it depends. See Figures 1 and 10-12. The examiner points out that the Item 90 of Darden is better analogized not with a supporting member, but rather with the handle holders of the admitted prior art, in that both are removable members fixed to larger structures via screws. Additionally, the examiner points out that forming in one piece an article which has formerly been formed in two pieces has been held to involve only routine skill in the art. For these reasons, it can therefore be concluded that the combination of the teachings of Lange and Darden with those of the admitted prior art would obviously produce a structure wherein the supporting member and handle holder are integrally formed as a single unitary piece.

Conclusion

14. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew W. Ing whose telephone number is (571) 272-6536.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MWI 
10 September 2007


Jose V. Chen
Primary Examiner